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A2

(Amended) A process according to claim 3 wherein said thermally expandable microspheres are added to said fiber furnish either prior to or at the headbox during said wet end of said manufacturing process for said tissue products.

A3

8. (Amended) A process according to claim 3 wherein said fiber furnish comprises recycled fibers, Kraft fibers, fibers containing sulfite, or cellulosic fibers.

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12. (Amended) The tissue product of claim 11 wherein said tissue product is a sanitary bath tissue, facial tissue, or towel.

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 4, 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Those claims are now amended. The phrase "or the like" in claims 2 and 12, and the reference to "other commercial fibers" in claim 8 were removed. As amended, the scope of claims 2, 12, and 8 is clearly ascertainable.

The Examiner also objected the phrase "just in front of the headbox" in claim 4 as indefinite. Per the Examiner, it is unclear whether "in front" refers to an upstream or downstream position with respect to the headbox. Claim 4 has been amended to make explicit that the microspheres are added to the furnish "prior to" (i.e. upstream from) or at the headbox. Support for the amendment can be found in Application, page 12, lines 19-25. As amended, the scope of claim 4 is clearly ascertainable.

In view of the amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the section 112, second paragraph objections to claims 2, 4, 8 and 12.